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MEMOIRS

OF THE

PRIESTLEY FAMILY.

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PART I.

Some Memoirs concerning the Family of the Priestleys, written, at the request of a friend, by Jonathan Priestley, An°. Domini 1696, Ætatis suæ 63.

We read though the Jews were more exact in keeping the register of their genealogies than any other people, yet there was many of them, upon their return from their captivity out of Babylon, could not shew their pedigree or the house of their fathers. It would be a pleasing entertainment to some persons to know something of their ancestors, of their quality, of the condition they had lived in, and the places of their abode where they have sojourned while they have continued in this world. The providences of God have been very remarkable about some families, the knowledge whereof may be not only pleasing but profitable to posterity. 1681250

The old generation of the Priestleys being worn out, myself being the eldest now living, I shall give some memorials or notices concerning our family, so far as come within the reach either of my own knowledge, or what I have heard from my parents and good uncles, who lived all of them to a good old age.

The ancient seat and the inheritance of the Priestleys was in Soyland, which was three good farms worth 40*l.* per annum, so accounted in old times. There lived Henry Priestley, grandfather to Robert Priestley now living this present year, 1695, who is now aged about 63. That Soyland hath been in the possession of the Priestleys above 600 years, and their own proper inheritance, I have heard the same from my uncle and ancestors; nor can I understand from cousin Robert, who hath lately sold that inheritance to Richard Hoyle, of Godley, in Northowram, deceased, that he hath any old writings that make mention of the names of any person in whose possession it was before the Priestleys, but descended from father to son.

I shall here insert a writing from cousin Robert Priestley,

verbally as sent to me, who is the oldest of that branch of our family now living, which is this :—

'Soyland hath been as ancient in the Priestleys' name as since William the Conqueror, and they called their children Williams at the first, many of them, and then Henrys and Roberts; and the Baitings estate came to the Priestleys by a ward, whose name was Helen Gledhill,[1] which was the lands of one Richard Gledhill some time, as the old writings make mention.'

This estate of the Baitings, with three farms adjoining, was worth 100*l.* per annum. Another reason that moves me to believe Soyland was the inheritance of the Priestleys is this:— cousin Joseph Priestley, at Gray's Inn[2] a considerable time, who was the son of John my eldest brother, he went to the king's herald to search for the Priestleys' arms; and told me they[3] was derived from Soyland. If any one desire to know the truth thereof further, must apply[4] to the king's herald.[5]

Henry Priestley, of Soyland, had two sons, Robert and

[1] Helen daughter of Richard Gledhill m. Henry Priestley.

[2] Admitted of Gray's Inn, 4th February, 1662.

[3] Another copy reads, "he had the coat of arms, and told me." &c.

[4] In another copy, "must apply themselves."

[5] Probably is meant one of the King's of Arms. No pedigree of Priestley, of Halifax, or that neighbourhood, is recorded at the Herald's College. At the Visitation of Middlesex, 1634 (C. 28. 22 B.), the following descent of William Priestley, of London, was entered, with a note that the arms and crest annexed had been granted to him and his posterity, 2nd February, 1697, by William Camden, *Clarenceaux*, vizt., Gules, on a chevron argent, three grappling irons sable, between as many towers of the second issuing out of each of which a demi-lion rampant or. Crest, a cockatrice argent standing on the lower part of a broken spear lying fessewise or, in his mouth the other portion. These armorial bearings have been assumed, apparently without authority, by the Priestleys of Yorkshire.

Wm. Prestley, of London = Margt. sister to Sir Nicholas Moseley.

Anna, da. of Rafe Hart, of the citty of Bristoll, first wife. = Wm. Priestley, of London, sonne and heire. = Elizabeth, dau. of Thomas Spicer, of Exeter.

Hester da. of Sir Joan Gore, of London, Alderman. = Wm. Prestley, son and heire. Martha, wife to Wm. Cutler, of London. Elizabeth.

Wm. Prestley, son and heire. Hester, 1. Mabell, 2.

In Beltz and Palmer's Collections in Coll. Arm. (G.F.B., part 2, fo. 468), is a pedigree differing in some respects from that narrated by the writer of the MS. now under notice.

John,[6] both of them I knew very well. Robert was my godfather,[7] which was then required of all that was baptized. Robert, the elder, being married, was placed at the Baitings, and after his father's death had both it and Soyland. This Robert had two sons also, Henry and Robert. Henry, the elder, married to one Grace Butterworth,[8] of Rochdale, and died shortly after the covenants of marriage was agreed upon but not sealed. Before the consummation of the marriage, and the death of Henry, Robert the father refused to seal the covenants, thinking to reserve the estates in whole or in part for Robert his younger son, but Grace the widow of Henry proved with child;—hereupon did arise a great suit. Thomas Butterworth did recover the whole estate for the young heir. This suit cost Robert Priestley 300*l.*, as I have heard often, and gave a great shock to that family, and was the first step to its ruin; the young heir, Henry,[9] being born after his father's death, became a great prodigal.

Old Robert died shortly after; his grandson became heir to all the estate, both Soyland and Baitings, worth 140*l.* per annum, which would not maintain his prodigality, but he ran the estate into 500*l.* debt, and he destroyed himself by intemperance. The estate came to his uncle Robert, who might by prudent managing have preserved it; but he, who before could live upon a little, could not now live upon a great deal, but squandered all away, sold Soyland to Richard Hoyle of Godley, the Baitings to William Horton of Barksland; so the ancient inheritance of the Priestleys is quite alienated from the family.

This Robert, who sold the estate, had a son called Henry,

[6] John Priestley, of Soyland, co. York, late of Clement's Inn, gent., was admitted of the Inner Temple, 9th July, 26 Eliz., 1584; his sureties being Robert Greenwood and Da. Waterhouse. He was called to the Bar, 11th Feb., 1592; appointed Recorder of Ripon by charter 24th June, 1604, and was succeeded in that office by Sir Richard Hutton in 1610.

[7] This must be in the year 1633.—(*Note in MS.*)

[8] Grace Butterworth re-married Isaac Farrar, of Sowerby. She died of a fever, and was buried at Ormskirk, July 3rd, 1680.

[9] This Henry was clerk to Mr. Entwistle, of Ormskirk, an attorney. He died at Ormskirk, and was buried there July 3rd, 1680. On June 1st, 1711, Thos. Priestley, of Rochdale, son and heir of Henry Priestley and Martha his wife, signed away his right of equity of redemption of the Baitings' estate to Mr. Wm. Horton.

that, it's hoped, was a good Christian. He was married to one of the daughters of Daniel Greenwood, late of Halifax, who, going into Ireland about his trade, died there in the flower of his age.[10]

Another branch of the family of the Priestleys that sprang from Soyland was planted at Goodgreave, in the same town. My knowledge will not reach so far as to know which of them was first in possession of that place, but I am well assured it was my great grandfather. I never heard that it was in the possession of any person of any other name than the Priestleys. My great grandfather lived there in the beginning of the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and was the owner and proprietor of that place when the two Earls of Westmoreland and Northumberland raised a rebellion against that good queen in the north. I have heard my uncles say he was a very comely person; being a considerable clothier, used, when he warped, to button his beard within his coat or doublet.

I never heard that he had any son lived to any considerable age, but my grandfather Thomas. He had several daughters. One of my grandfather's sisters, I think, married that famous Mr. Broadley,[11] who had as great success in his ministry as any I ever heard of in these parts. He had two sons; both died before they were married: Benjamin died in Ireland; whether he was sent thither to the University at Dublin, or no, is uncer-

[10] Henry Priestley, of Baitings, died at Belfast, in Ireland, where he went to sell goods; buried there March 1st [1689-90], aged 22: a pious man.—*Heywood's Register*, p. 77.

[11] Mr. John Broadley was minister at Sowerby chapel in 1622, when the late old chapel was enlarged and re-edified, and is said to have preached 13 Sundays on the dial-stone in the chapel yard without so much as a shower of rain to disturb him. He lived at Ball Green, in Sowerby, and was buried at Halifax, 14th Feb., 1625, and is called in the register there *Pastor dignissimus*. In the wall of the south side, over a door, on a brass plate, is inscribed:—

Mr. Jo. Broadley late Minister of Sowerby Chapp: died Feb. 14, 1625; and Mary, his wife, also died March the 2nd, 1625, and here lie buried.

Here lies interr'd a zealous, grave Divine,
Meek, loving, lov'd, only with sin at strife;
Who heard him, saw life in his doctrine shine;
Who saw him, heard sound doctrine in his life.
And in the same cold bed here rests his wife.

Nor are they dead, but sleep; for he ne'er dies
That waits for his sweet Saviour's word, 'Arise.'

(Note in MS.)

tain. Not long after Mr. Broadley's death came Mr. Rathband[12] to Sowerby. By the labours and ministry of those faithful preachers, Sowerby was the most eminent place that was to be found in all the country; wherein was many persons of note (of my knowledge), both for parts, estates, and piety; having great and flourishing families that are now wofully degenerated in their posterities, both in their religion and temporal estates. Also my father and mother and good uncle made an honourable mention of their uncle Broadley, of his sermons, and holy conversation. I never heard that he did anything of moment, especially in temporal concerns, without his wife's advice, for whom he had a great respect.

Another of my grandfather's sisters married Mr. Bunney,[13] of Temple . . . physician. My uncle Henry and aunt Mary lived with Mr. Bunney a considerable time, and my uncle Henry acquired his skill in physic with them, and after Mr. Bunney's death he practised with great success in Halifax. Mr. Bunney died without children. My uncle Henry and aunt Mary did assist their aunt Bunney whilst she lived, and, when she died, she made them joint executors. I have seen very fine things of brass, pewter, and linen, which my aunt Mary (who died with my mother) said was her aunt Bunney's, and my aunt left them to be divided betwixt my sister and me; but my mother persuaded me to quit my right to my sister for 5*l.*, which I did, so those things are with cousin Elizabeth Stansfield, or amongst the Niecolsons.

Another of the Priestleys, a daughter, was married to one Horsefield, of Mansee Hall, near Kildwick, of whom I can give no particular account, but I was once at Mansee Hall very kindly entertained, and Henry Horsefield did challenge relation to me, saying he did spring from a Priestley of one side. This is all I can say of my great grandfather's children, except my grandfather Thomas, who was the only son of his father that lived to be married, so far as I know.

[12] Mr. Nathaniel Rathband, A.M., was minister at Sowerby from 1625 to 1645.—*Note in MS.*

[13] There may have been a double connexion between the two families. Jane Priestley m. Francis Bunney, rector of Ryton and archdeacon of Northumberland, who in his Will [d. 1617] mentions his wife Jane, his wife's niece Mary Priestley, his niece Priscilla Bunney, and Joseph Priestley her brother.

Thomas, my grandfather, was twice married. His first wife I do not know of what family she was, but by her he had four children, Joseph, my father, John, Anthony, and Mary. John was sent to London, as I have heard; I suppose served his apprenticeship there and did set up his trade, but either was not married, or else had no children. My father was his executor, but, having some unhappy suit or suits about his estates made the executorship worth nothing to him. Anthony was bred up to the law, and lived at Cawood, on this side York, and died there, having no children. Mary was never married; lived with my father, and after his death with my mother, till she died herself, very aged.

I shall prætermit saying anything of Joseph, my father, till I have said something of my grandfather's children by his second wife, whose name was Ann Hirst, of Greetland. She was, as I have heard, a very laborious woman: by her my grandfather had five children, Francis, Jonathan, Timothy, Henry, and Grace, all living to a great age. Though he had these children to bring up, yet he gave them good education and a competent measure of learning. He built a good house upon his land at Goodgreave; besides he had the Priestley Ing in Turvin, which it's probable was broken up and planted by some one of our ancestors, bearing their name. There is a good large house upon it, and two good barns, a great deal of land, some of it good, and good wood below the house down to the water, where was, and I believe is, good timber. My grandfather died; left Goodgreave to my father, his eldest son by his first wife, and Priestley Ing to Francis,[14] the eldest son by his second wife, Goodgreave being 25*l.* per annum, and Priestley Ing 15*l.*, and gave portions in money to his younger children.

Francis was a very eager, indefatigable reader of books, both divinity, law, and history, but especially divinity, having very good natural parts and capacity, whereby he became a person of great knowledge and understanding as any that ever I was acquainted with; but that which was best of all, he was a pious, religious, and conscientious Christian, both in his duty towards God and man, very humble, and very much master over his own passions; had an excellent gift and faculty for discourse and

[14] He was M.P. for Halifax in 1648.

gument. He married Sibyl, widow first of Joshua Witton ather in law to Mr. Witton, parson of Thornhill, father to ichard Witton, Esq., of Wakefield, councillor at law). After e death of Joshua Witton, this Sibyl married one Michael Vhitely, by whom she had Joseph and Mary Whitely, and, after e death of Michael Whitely, this Sibyl married my uncle rancis Priestly, by whom he had no children. He lived, after e was married, at Bentleyroyde, in Sowerby, where Sibyl his ife lived when he married her, and did let Priestley Ing to . . . e was a good useful man in the town; no town's business of oment was done without his advice and assistance; no man in e town so frequently called on as he to arbitrate differences; as a good liver, a fast friend to godly ministers. I do not know family comparable to it ever since for piety and religious exer-ses. My aunt Sybil's man-servants and maid-servants, and e Richard Moore, a tabler that lived and died with them, were l of them eminent good Christians. In his old age he and my unt gave up housekeeping, and came and lived with my brother homas at Holdsworth, who married Mary, daughter to my aunt ybil, by Michael Whitely, her second husband. They both died t Holdsworth, in a good old age.

I remember after my uncle Francis gave up housekeeping, e gave me a visit at Priestley Green, and heard Mr. Heywood reach. He did not relish something delivered, either as to the atter or the manner, but I told him I thought he was a good an, &c. He answered me he thought no less; "but," says e, "Cousin, when good meat is prepared, one would have it well ooked, not spoiled in the dressing." He was a lover of good en and good ministers, who had always kind entertainment at is house. He was a most diligent and affectionate hearer of the Word, ordinarily with tears in his eyes; of a public spirit. Some me before his death, he told me, "Cousin, I will be my own xecutor, because you are not only a kinsman but a lover of good en and good ministers, I give you this thirty pounds;" which e delivered me in a purse with his own hands.

I was present one time at Holdsworth when he had a dispute ith his son in law, Mr. Witton,[15] parson of Thornhill, about

[15] Joshua Witton, born in 1613, was at Cambridge, and entered Holy Orders. e was chaplain to Ferdinand Lord Fairfax, who made him rector of Thornhill, ut he refused to conform at the Restoration, and retired to York, where he

tithes. My uncle maintained that it was more agreeable to the state of the church, under the Gospel, for ministers to be maintained by the contributions and benevolences of the people than by tithes. Mr. Witton, having a good parsonage, argued with all his strength to the contrary, who was as quick a man and of as good parts and learning as any I then or do know now. I do not determine who was in the right, but Mr. Witton was so pinched, he did throw his hat upon the table, and said, "I profess, father, I had rather thresh a whole day than maintain an argument with you an hour."

Mr. Wilkinson, of Illingworth, was a tabler with my brother at the same time when my uncle was there. He was newly begun to preach; he has often told me when he was at a loss, and could not proceed in the study of his sermon, he went down to discourse with my uncle, and proposed questions to him about what he would have been resolved in, and he would have satisfied him presently, and would acknowledge he was a great help to him in his studies.

My aunt Sybil, his wife, died at Holdsworth, a very pious, religious woman. Not long after, the infirmities of old age growing upon my uncle, he fell to being very weak and ill. It was my lot, as he desired, to be with him the same night he died, who was sensible to his last breath. He greatly lamented the Black Bartholomew Day (as he called it), upon which 2000 godly ministers were silenced, which he feared would be a great inlet to impiety and irreligion, so it proved. Another and I that watched with him shifted him several times betwixt his bed and his chair. The last time he was shifted, finding his end approaching, he said, "Good cousin, help me to my chair." Holding him up in his arms, he took solemn leave of me in these words, "The God of peace be with you, and I beseech you live in peace

passed the rest of his life. Calamy says: "He was a man of an excellent temper, of great integrity, and unusual capacity, a good scholar, and blessed with a plentiful estate." He died on June 1st, 1674, leaving by his wife Elizabeth, daughter of Tempest Thornton, esq., a son, Richard Witton, a lawyer, who was Lord Fairfax's agent.

In 1651, when the Parliament granted to Lord Fairfax the seignory of the Isle of Man, he appointed the Rev. Joshua Witton to be one of his commissioners to settle the affairs of the island. Lord Fairfax also appointed him in his will, 1667, one of four clergymen who were to nominate to his executor twenty poor ministers to share in the legacy of 100*l.* thereby bequeathed.—*Markham's Life of Lord Fairfax*, pp. 364, 442.

one with another;" and fell upon praying; and presently departed, calling upon God, without any struggling, only gave a little chuck with his head, just as a child when it hiccups. So his precious soul departed to his dear Saviour, where he longed to be. He was about 74 or 75 years of age (it may be known more exactly in the register at Halifax). He was interred in the church, towards the upper end of the south ally.

My grandfather's next son, by his second wife, was Jonathan, who lived and died a bachelor, and was a tabler with my father and mother in her widowhood near upon forty years. He was a godly, eminent Christian, that feared God above many. He had a good report of all men, and of the truth itself. He hated those friends and circumventing practices that some of our later professors, I doubt, are too much guilty of. He durst not defraud or go beyond his brother in anything; he was a very pattern of the primitive and godly simplicity practised by the best Christians in old time that is grown so rare in our days. He was a faithful monitor to all his friends or relatives; in all things wherein they did amiss he would not fail in that, whatever was the effect, or however it might be taken, as I could, if it was fit, give a particular instance of my own knowledge, and of the good success of his faithfulness in this. He was instead of a husband to my good mother in her widowhood, instead of a father to her children, by his prayers and wise counsels. In all her afflictions he was afflicted; when we were forced to fly into Lancashire, my mother and all her children, he went along with us, when our house at Goodgreave was ransacked and plundered, over and over again, in the time of the Civil Wars, and never left the family 'till the day of his death; he constantly prayed in the family, in my father's absence, and continually after his death. I never heard worse word betwixt my mother and him than 'Brother' and 'Sister,' nor I think any body else, for all those many years they lived together. I was much indebted to him for my education, as well as to my good mother. I learned with a very pious, religious schoolmaster, who spent most of the Thursdays, in the afternoon, in catechising his children; he would always ask me that night what questions my master Jowet had asked me, and the other scholars, that was not contained in the printed catechism, and how I answered. He constantly heard Mr. Rathband's ministry at Sowerby, and took me along with

him as soon as I was able to go, and as we came home examined me what I had learned, and what I could remember, and asked me how I understoood such and such things, and would open them to me in words suitable to my understanding:—but I must not enlarge as I might.

After my brother Joseph was married, my mother went to her own house in Mixenden, yet still my uncle Jonathan stayed in the family with my brother, it may be eight or nine years before his death, 'till after I was married. I cannot say what distemper brought him to his end but old age and decay of nature. He was one of the most temperate men for eating and drinking in the world. He made his Will, and made me his executor; he told me he was sorry he could leave me no more, which he could not but displease his friends, with whom he desired to die in peace, and added, he verily believed what he left his brother Henry's lads, if they arrived to be men, would be gone. I had many a weary journey to see him, for six weeks or two months together, maybe twice a week, from Priestley Green to Goodgreave, and be sure I must watch all night with him, especially near his end. He often said he repented exceedingly that he came not to my house when he began to be not well; he longed earnestly to be with his dear Saviour; would say to me, "Cousin, what think you, it cannot be long, another night will do much towards bringing me home;" but he was very patient. Having a family, I could not be constantly with him. He departed this life, and resigned his soul to God in my absence. He was interred at Halifax, before his brother Francis, who now lay very near one another, towards the upper end of the south alley in Halifax church. He was, I believe, 70 years of age; how much I cannot tell.

His brother Timothy would never receive his portion left him by my grandfather, but ordered my uncle Jonathan to receive it, and bid him to trade with it, and, if he got anything, in case Timothy outlived him, he was to leave him one half of his estate: and if lost all, he said he could work for his living. But though they had scarce 100*l.* both of them, my uncle did improve that little stock to near 700*l.* The one half was set out by me to my uncle Timothy, to his content, within two months after my uncle Jonathan's death, and within the compass of that time I paid all the legacies but 80*l.*, of which I could not be discharged 'till

John Priestley, of York, and Joseph his brother, came[16] to age, who were both my brother Joseph's children whom I put apprentice, John to Mr. Lister, grocer, of York, and the younger son, Joseph,[17] to Mr. Kitchingman, according to the charge my uncle gave me concerning them, to place them in honest families, and such trades as I thought fit.

Timothy was the next brother, of a meaner capacity than any of my grandfather's children, though he was capable enough of any business he had a mind to employ himself in, which was principally in keeping of sheep. He had sheep kept to pasture in Rishworth, at Lighthazles, in Lancashire, at Wolstin, Turvin, and divers other places, and bechives; would go two or three days to seek a lost sheep. At other times he would work hard, would never be idle. He dressed the white carsays my uncle Jonathan made, and for others that my brothers bought. He was very harmless and innocent in his conversation. I have heard my uncle Jonathan say, "I am much troubled oftentimes for my brother Timothy; but then I think again God requires no more than He gives." He lived with my mother also above 20 years, upon my knowledge, after my uncle Jonathan's death; growing very old, he went to my aunt Grace Wood, at Edge, near Illingworth, and died at her house about the 74th year of his age; never married. He left his cousin Thomas, the apothecary,[18] 100 pounds, and 100*l.* to his brother Francis, of Priestley Green; my uncle Jonathan the land he lived upon before I came to Winteredge[19]; left them either of them as much, these three uncles, and left them as good as 700*l.*, with the Priestley Ing worth 300*l.*

Henry was the next and youngest brother. He was a gen-

[16] N.B.—This Joseph was grandfather to the present John Priestley, of White Windows [who transcribed this manuscript. Æt. 61], anno 1779. If he was 16 years old this must be in the year 1666, he was born in 1650. I have heard him say he had a hard apprenticeship; when he came home from Leeds or Wakefield, and had driven packs, he might have had nothing but a mess of broth, or cold milk and bread, and he was a tender youth.—*Note by copyist of MS.*

[17] Interlined in a different hand.

[18] Mr. Tho. Priestley, Apoth., buried March 8 (1691-2), aged 36.—*Heywood's Register*, p. 80.

[19] For an account of Winter-edge, see "Watson's Halifax," 235-6.

teel, personable man, of very good parts, and could speak and discourse admirable well; was educated with his uncle Bunney that married his aunt, a very good physician, with whom he got his skill in physic, which he practised with good success and reputation all his life after. He was very frugal and provident; got a pretty estate; bought Priestley Green of Mr. Sunderland at same time uncle Jonathan bought the other farm near by, the first house I lived in after I was married. He might have matched into as good families as most in the country, and yet he was the strangliest inchanted and infatuated in his first marriage that I think ever any wise man was. He married a woman of ill extraction, with whom he had neither portion nor good qualities, a very profane, ignorant woman. All the counsels and projects of his friends could avail nothing to prevent it, though they were not awanting in using their utmost diligence to that end; but he married her privately, had three children by her, I think all sons, one he called Daniel; they all died young, and the mother died also in a short time, so that in four or five years he was a single man again, and did somewhat retrieve his reputation by his second marriage to Ann Dean, widow, and niece to Isabel Denton, a rich chandler of Halifax. This Isabel Denton was well pleased with her kinswoman marrying my uncle; lived till Thomas and Francis was born; made her Will, and left an estate in housing and land better than 50*l.* per annum, and a great deal of money, to John, my aunt Dean's son by her first husband, and, in case he died without heir, to Thomas and Francis, sons of Henry Priestley. John died, and his wife and his son, all in a short time; so all Isabel Denton's estate fell to my uncle Henry's two sons in their minority.

My uncle Henry died much younger than any of my grandfather's children; I think he did not live much above 50. He went to Wakefield to meet one Mr. Bunney, some relation to his uncle Bunney; I was in Wakefield that day; he sent for me to have my company homeward; we came together unto Lightcliffe; he complained he was not well, and thought he had some harm by some sour drink he had drunk that day; he had a very bad night; in the morning, as my aunt told me, he put his own water in the urinal, and after it had stood awhile looked upon it, and presently threw the glass from him on the bed, and said he was a dead man, or a gone man.

I waited upon him the day before he died, and I and uncle Timothy watched all night with him, helping him betwixt two beds, as he had a mind, several times, and had occasion for all our strength, he being a corpulent man, but the last time we shifted him he said he would go himself; I said, "Uncle, you cannot;" but the pains of death being upon him, he went strongly between the two beds, which he had not been able to do all that night before, and died about an hour and a half after, with great difficulty, being not so weakened with age as his other brothers; though he was the youngest, yet he died the first.

I remember my uncle Francis came to visit him the day before he died. I was present. "Brother," says he, "how doth God manifest himself to you?" He answered, "I am afraid God is angry with me." My uncle spoke very well to him, yet notwithstanding, his fear continued a great part of the night, as he expressed to me; yet many gracious expressions fell from his mouth before his departure. He maintained the worship of God; though he was of a cheerful, yet he was of a sober conversation, so far as I could ever discern, and was not the first good man that hath gone to heaven in a cloud.

His first marriage was a blemish to his other parts, yet I am persuaded he was deeply sensible of that and his other miscarriages and faults, and humbled for them before he was surprised with his last sickness; and there is nothing but final impenitence and unbelief that can shut the gates of heaven against us, that I know of.

His death was a great loss to his two sons that he left very young; they was in a manner, if not altogether, left to the bent of their own wills, from their very infancy and childhood. Thomas, the elder, was put an apprentice to Matthew Widdop; married to his first wife the daughter of Mr. Lister, of Shibden Hall; she died in a short time, without issue. He married to his second wife a daughter of Mr. Green's, of Hightown, Alice. Long Liversedge came by her; he had only one daughter, called Dorothy, and to her he left an estate worth 120*l.* per annum, besides a considerable estate in money. His second wife died about two years after he himself died, leaving only this Dorothy, she, about 15 years

of age, married Mr. Samuel Lister, own brother to her father's first wife.[20]

Francis, the younger son, married Grace, Mr. Heald's daughter, a minister that died in Ireland, by whom he had, I think, six children, Ann, John, Grace, Henry, Mary. He, by ill management, high living, and extravagant ways, wasted an estate worth 60*l.* per annum, and near 1000*l.* in money, left him by his father and three uncles, and my aunt Grace Wood, in about 26 years. He died a young man; left his estate to Mr. Abraham Langley and Mr. John Hargreaves, senior, to be sold to pay his debts; and, to complete the undoing of his family, married a woman of a poor family, that had nothing, by whom he had one daughter left behind. He died at Priestley Green. He did much what in his second marriage as his father did in his first. Children are more apt to imitate or follow their parents in their failings or vices than in their graces and virtues.

Grace was the youngest child and only daughter my grandfather had by his second wife. She was married to Joseph Wood, a while after our Civil Wars ended. Being well-stricken in years, they never had any children, though they lived many years together. He was a very provident man, of a quiet and peaceable temper; would seldom or never do anything but by the consent of his wife. He died of a palsy, in a good old age. My aunt kept house, living many years a widow. Her husband left her 10*l.* a year, the Edge and cottages belonging to it, and also a good stock in money and goods. She was a woman of good understanding, and by her frugal way of living did greatly improve and increase her estate. Some people would accuse her of covetousness, but I never knew her get anything by wrong or prejudice to anybody. She lent a great deal of money, but I never knew she had above 12^{d} p. £ of anybody. Her friends had kind and good entertainments at her house when they went to visit her; she would have lent money to poor people who sometimes never paid her again; served poor people who came

[20] Married May 16th, 1695. He died in 1702. and she re-married at Coley, Nov. 16th. 1703, Richard Sterne, Esq., of Woodhouse. Her Prayer Book is in the possession of the family of Carroll, of Thorparch, and has in it the following inscription: "The gift of Thomas Priestley to his daughter, Dorothy Priestley, January ye 1st, 1688."

to her door. I kept the account of her bonds, writ her a catalogue when they became due; a little before her death she sent for me to set her accounts right, and desired me to cast up what her bonds would amount to; as I remember, the whole was about 960*l.*; "What," says she, "will it not be 1000*l.*?" I am sure her cattle and household goods would have made it above 1000*l.* All this she left to be divided betwixt Thomas and Francis, sons of her brother Henry Priestley, besides 10*l.* a year in land, paying out some small legacies, 20*l.* to me, and as much to my brother Thomas, which was more than all the legacies she left besides: that, with accounting the land, I am certain they had either of them far above 500*l.*, all legacies and bad debts deducted. Presently after this last time she sent for me to make up her account, she fell very ill of her last sickness, and died.

One passage I shall relate. I going over to visit her, she said she longed to see me before I came, bade her maid suffer nobody to come in till I came out; "Cousin," saith she, "I am going to die, and one thing troubles me exceedingly, that I have had a family so many years, and never in that time once prayed with my poor family," and she wept most bitterly, "but," says she, "always retired to this room to private secret prayer:" that she was constant in, she said, and I did know she always caused a Chapter to be read, and a Psalm to be sung every night, but no prayers, unless some of her brothers, or I, or some man came whom she knew would do it, and then she would be sure to ask them. "Cousin, what think you of my case and condition," said she, "for I have not done my duty?" I said, "Aunt, I hope if God would spare your life, and restore you to "health, you would do it;" "Yes," said she, "through God's "assistance, but," said she, "I must die, and am persuaded must "not recover; good cousin," said she, "go to prayers with me "now," which I did, according to my ability. I believe she had been reflecting seriously upon her own heart and life, and I cannot but have charitable thoughts, and that she was a vessel of mercy. She did too much idolize her brother Henry, and because his children was of the whole blood, she thought they had the best right to her estate. She died the last, and lived the longest, of any of my grandfather's children. I believe she lived

to near 80 years.[21] Henry died youngest; none else but lived to above 70, but I cannot be exact in their age.

I shall add one thing more concerning my aunt Grace. I knew several servants, man-servants, and maid-servants, and apprentices, that could not read a word, nor perhaps know a letter, when they came to her, and she taught them to read very distinctly. She was as industrious in that, and as successful in it, as ever I knew. She had many good books, and read much herself. She was well instructed from a child. Oh! what a great blessing is religious education; it is like cloth dyed in the wool, that gives a deeper tincture, and retains it longer than impressions made in elder age; it breeds in children a conscience of sin and duty betime, and doth prepare their minds for a more easily profiting in the public preaching of the word. Few men hath a greater blessing in their posterity than my grandfather Priestley had. I think Mr. Baxter hath a saying in some of his writings, that the church is more beholden to praying persons and families for good Christians and eminent profitable preachers than to all the world besides. I am sure his posterity I have been mentioning were faithful trees where they were planted, and great blessings in their generation.

Now I shall speak something of my own father, who was the oldest son of my grandfather by his first wife. I have reserved what I have to say concerning him to the last, because he had the most children, and his branches have spread the farthest. His name was Joseph, and he was a fruitful bough (Genesis 49, verse 22), God gave him the blessings of the highest and of the womb. He had ten children by my mother. He married Elizabeth, daughter of John Booth, of Mixenden, who had a great estate both in money and land, and had only two daughters, Elizabeth my mother, and Mary the younger daughter. Mary was married to Michael Whiteley, of Wheatley, who died and left no children but one that died young. This John Booth, my grandfather by my mother's side, was a very eminent Christian, one of the holiest of that time and age in which he lived. My master, James Jowet, in his younger years, taught school near Illingworth, afterwards, in his old age, near Ripponden, with

[21] Heywood says she was "aged 74." "Grace Wood, of Edg-end by Illingworth, buried March 28, 1688. She left 900*li.* in Bonds, Bills, &c., to Tho. and Fra. Priestley, except Legacys."—*Coley Register*, ed. J. H. Turner, p. 68.

whom I got that little learning I have. He would often wish I might be as good a man as my grandfather Booth. He was uncle to Mr. Robert Booth, that holy man of God that was so long a time preacher at Sowerby bridge, and afterwards at Halifax. He had his education with my grandfather Booth, and lived with him some time after he came from the University.

I shall relate a short story concerning my grandfather Booth. In Dr. Favour's time, he being vicar of Halifax, there came a wandering clergyman to the doctor who wanted a place. Illingworth being then destitute, he sent him thither to preach, and would have the people to receive him as their minister. My grandfather sent to the doctor to desire him to give them leave to make a choice of one themselves; when he would not be persuaded, he spoke to the doctor after this manner: "Sir, I charge "you here, in the presence of God, as you will answer it in the "day of judgment, for those souls at Illingworth that may perish "eternally for want of a godly minister, and the faithful preach-"ing of the word amongst us, that you do not impose this man "upon us." At which words the good Dr. Favour did desist, and said they should have their own choice of a minister. I have heard my uncle Francis say that Dr. Favour said he never met with such a man as that John Booth in all his life; but I shall endeavour not to enlarge, but to contract what I have to say.

Joseph, my father, was no way inferior to any of his brethren in the gifts either of his body or his mind. He was well known to be an eminent Christian; he was of a cheerful conversation, and of a great acquaintance; his kind heart brought him into snares; I have heard my mother say he was bound for 140*l.* for one man, and paid it all, and had nothing for it but a rug and brewing-pan. He was bound with one Highlee of Highlee, in Sowerby, for a great sum of money; this man was the richest man in Sowerby, when Sowerby chapel was built, having sixty houses and farms; having bad children he came to poverty; my father had the Highlee made to him for his money, but in the time of the Civil Wars my father died, and old Highlee died; young Highlee re-entered, and my father lost all his money.

My mother had to her portion Mixenden, where my grandfather lived, 41*l.* a year; it was let at for many years, and Holds-

worth 20*l.* a year, and a farm called Wrigley, and another farm in Bradshaw called Scoalcrofts. My mother's portion in money and land was better than 1000*l.*

As I have said, my father had ten children. He used to say he was like Job in his children, he had seven sons and three daughters,—John, Joseph, Thomas, Samuel, Timothy, Benjamin, Jonathan; two daughters died in infancy; only Mary lived to be married.

My father being the oldest son of my grandfather by his first wife, must needs be much older than any of my uncles that was the children of a second wife. My mother did outlive my father 16 or 17 years; he died in the time of our Civil Wars, when I was about nine years of age, in the year 1643. My father and brothers fled into Lancashire sometime before my mother and her two youngest children. He designed a journey to London, but said he would come and see his Betty before, so he usually called my mother. Coming over Blackstone Edge early in the morning, being a thick mist, and leading his horse down the hill, he fell amongst a troop of horse at the foot of the hill, 'ere he was aware, and was brought prisoner to Halifax. They demanded 80*l.* for his ransom, which he refused to pay, supposing the King's army might shortly be driven out and the town re-taken, as it often happened in those times.

My mother made shift to procure him a bed, and we had an apprentice, one John Walker, a good age, but next in stature to a dwarf, he would have got by the centinel at Sowerby bridge and carried my father clean linen and money, and whatever he stood in need of every week. He was prisoner with some others, of like quality, at the corner house in the South-gate, now in the occupation of John Wright, where he had the liberty of two or three chambers. There was one Joseph Briggs, a fellow prisoner, he often said there was scarce such a man in the world as Joseph Priestley; he said they had been almost dead but for him, he was so hearty and cheerful, and lived so much above his troubles, and did so much comfort them, and especially by his prayers, who, he said, prayed and read the Scriptures, morning and evening, with his fellow prisoners, to their great delight, though he said the Caviliers would call them Puritans and Roundheads.

The streets being filled with straw and dung, and my father, being a strong active man, not used to confinement, fell sick,

and by friends prevailed on the governor, Sir Francis Mackworth, to be removed to the house of John Brearcliffe, though John Brearcliffe himself was in Lancashire, where he met with his wife Dorothy in the time of his banishment.

My father had the liberty of the house, attended by his own servant, and a neighbour woman to us at Goodgreave. In a few days it pleased God to take him to Himself. He was interred behind the font in Halifax church, as decently as was possible for a man in his circumstances, and as the calamity of those times would permit. So God delivered him from all his troubles.

I can remember him; he was of a middle stature, of a clear complexion, some light-coloured hair short-curled about his ears, but bare from his forehead to his crown, straight limbs, and walked very fast.

His death did much endanger my mother's life, but God making way shortly after for our return from exile was some reviving to her. It could not be but my father was several years above 60. He lived to see his eldest son married, who was not married till 30 years old; myself, who was the youngest of 10 children, to be near 9 years of age.

My father's first born was a daughter, died young in infancy. John was the oldest son. After he was taken from school, and a good hand of writing and well taught in arithmetic, he was put an apprentice to John Mitchell, being partner with Robert Hall; they did keep a factor in Blackwell Hall, in London.[22] After my brother had been some time employed in business in the country, his master found him so ingénious and capable of business, he sent him to London, to Mr. Joseph Fourness, who was their factor in Blackwell Hall at that time. After Mr. Fourness had given him an induction into business, and saw him fit to manage the trade there, he came down into the country, and was admitted by John Mitchell and Robert Hall a partner in the trade.

My brother John carried on the trade at London, to the great satisfaction and advantage of the three partners. John Mitchell died, and left only two daughters, Mary and Hannah; he left either of them 800*l.* to their portions, and gave charge on his death-bed to his daughter Hannah to marry no other but John

[22] The site of Blackwell Hall, once the head quarters of the ancient woollen cloth trade of London in former days, is now covered by the City Library.

Priestley. Mr. Joseph Fourness married Ephon, widow of John Mitchel; and some time after, Hannah Mitchel, according to her father's mind and will, was married to my brother John, at Halifax, and presently returned to London, and lived several years in Basinghall street, and had four sons, three of them died before five years of age. He was a member of Mr. Simeon Ash's[23] Society, and lived under his ministry for some years in London. He lived in the time of the Civil Wars, and after, I suppose, about 20 years in all.

He was discreet and temperate; physicians judged he was in a consumption 8 or 9 years before he died, and that it was temperance that was a great means to preserve his life; yet went about business, as I remember, within three or four months before he died.

When he felt his strength fail, that he was not able to attend in the Hall and upon the Exchange, he took coach and came down to his own house in Booth Town, now in the occupation of widow Longbottom, and I think about two months after resigned his soul into the hands of his dear Saviour, and that willingly. He did not desire to be turned back into the world: I heard him say he had enough of this world, and did not desire to stay any longer in it, though he was not above 40 when he died; but he had chosen the better part, and was prepared for a better place. He was a man of approved piety in his family and whole conversation; his death was much lamented both in city and country.

I went to see him a little before his death, when he was scarce able to speak. He said one word to me which I shall never forget, and was of great use to me. "Oh! my brother," said he, "fear God and serve Him, or you are undone for ever." He spoke it with such an air, and in such a manner, that I believe I have thought of it some more than an hundred times with tears in my eyes.

We had a great acquaintance in London; I was there about three months after his death; I never heard anybody mention him but with a note of honour and respect. He was a great help to his two younger brothers, Joseph and Thomas; bought much cloth of them, and rid into Kent and the country to buy wool for them, whereby they had a very good trade.

[23] A well-known Puritan minister in London. He died in 1662.

Whilst he lived I have heard say that he would have said to my brother Thomas, "Tom, thy covetousness will be thy undoing." He designed to have had me to London if his death had not prevented it. My uncle Jonathan and my master Jowet solicited my mother to keep me at school, and send me to the University; my uncle promised kindly to maintain me there, but my brother John interposed, and would no way but I must be an assistant to him, and would take care of my preferment; but his death was a death to my hopes of living at London, though I would have gone to a trade there after my brother's death, but my mother would not hear of it nor consent to it. Man may purpose, but God disposeth as He seeth good. Though my brother had a son to leave his estate to, yet he left me 10*l.*, which my sister Hannah paid me very kindly after my brother's death, which was the best stock I had to begin the world with.

He left his son wholly to the care of his mother, and left him in land, I think, about 50*l.* per annum, and, as it was thought, 1500*l.* in personal estate. His mother, viz^t^ my brother's wife, was accounted a great wit as most of her sex, so anybody would have thought to have heard her discourse. But she acted foolishly: all her husband's friends advised her to put her son into his fathers's place and employment, or some other good trade in London, but would not be persuaded, but sent him to Lincoln's Inn, and there he fell into bad company with John Thorp and others, and so he spent several hundred pounds to no purpose, and never made any improvement in his learning.

He came into the country, and married one Jane Rawson, of Shipley, heiress to a good estate. He had one child by her, but it died young. He forced himself, contrary to his natural temper, to drink at the rate of his debauched companions, and died a young man. His land at Mixenden, that was my grandfather Booth's, and his land and mill at Wheatley, he left to be sold, either to pay his debt, or to Jane his wife.

A little before his death his mother concluded he was a dying man, goeth over to Goodgreave to my brother Joseph, and told him he had some writings belonging to her, and desired him to let her have them. He, being a kind man, let her pick out all the writings that did entitle him to my brother John's estate, and cut off the entail in court, and persuaded her son to leave Booth

Town, the finest seat he had, to his half sister that my brother's widow had with John Briggs her second husband.

Booth Town, of right, belonged to cousin John Priestley, of York; for I have often heard that my brother John would say "If my son die, brother Joseph, thou art my heir." Nothing did well with my sister Briggs after she had done this act; she died not long after her son. Elizabeth Briggs, her daughter, whether she doubted her title or no I cannot tell, but presently sold Booth Town to Mr. Abraham Hall for 400*l.*, and afterwards married Dr. Crowber,[24] a non-juring parson is now. She is dead; notwithstanding, I doubt not but my brother John hath a posterity to praise God with him in heaven, three sons that died before him.

My next brother was Joseph.[25] He always continued with my father whilst he lived, and with my mother till after he was married. He married Hester, daughter of John Briggs, of Grindlestone Bank, in Ovenden, in his time one of the principal men of the town. By her he had six children, if no more, viz., John, Joseph, Hannah, Sarah, Israel, and Timothy: the two daughters died about 6 or 7 years of age. Israel and Timothy died both of them in 24 hours; both buried in one grave in Halifax churchyard; very desirable children. He had only two sons that lived to be married; John, the elder, now a grocer in York, married Sarah, daughter of John Lister, grocer, of Upper Brear; to his second wife. Grace, daughter of Mr. Middlebrough,[26] of Wither, near Kestal Bridge, now living, a good, discreet woman.

Joseph, the younger, married Mary, daughter of William Morrell, of Beckfoot, in the parish of Bingley. Joseph, my brother, was my mother's darling; he could have anything from my mother; I have heard my uncle Jonathan say to her, "Sister,

[24] This must be Samuel Crowbrough, D.D., archdeacon of Nottingham, who gave up his preferment in 1690, rather than take the oaths.

[25] Joseph, grandfather to the present John Priestley, anno 1779, of Whitewindows, was married to Mary, daughter of William Morrell, of Beckfoot, Feb. 1st, 1674-5. William Morrell had 3 other daughters, viz., Isabel, married to John Dickson, of Sowerby; Sarah, to Isaac Taylor, of Bradford; and another to John Holdsworth, of Beckfoot, near Bingley.—*Note by John Priestley, the copyist of the MS.*, 1779.

[26] In his will, John Priestley mentions his daughter Grace having had 25*l.* given her by her grandmother Grace *Middlebrooke*.

I wonder what you mean; if you had a rick and a mill you would give it all to your son Joseph; I think you should reserve some for your younger children." She would say, "Alas, brother, you know if one have one child sickly in the family, one is more tender of it than of all the rest that are well." He did not mind his trade; he had more mind of husbandry; he was too apt to be drawn by bad company, being, as I said, of an easy temper (some call it a good nature), but not to intemperance, that I know of. He had a mind to have the things about the house neat and in good order. He was born, bred, and died at Goodgreave[27]; I think he died in the same room where he was born, and lived to full 70 years of age, in considerable health. Whosoever knew him, he was much like my mother in person. He had one half of my mother's land in Houldsworth, which he sold to my brother Thomas for 160*l.*; he had a small farm in Stainland that he left to his son John.

Thomas was the next son of my father; he was very painful and industrious; bent his mind much to trade; bought cloth; travelled to London with 8 or 9 horses all the time of the Civil Wars; sometimes he and others that was with him hired convoys, and sometimes went without, and were never taken, he or his horses or goods, all that dangerous time. My brother John lived in London; would have come down to Northampton or Harbrough to meet carriers; asked them what goods they had, and what marks, and what price, and would buy 20 or 30 packs and never see a piece, but entered them in his book, and they brought them to the hall and had their money paid down. I have heard my brother Thomas say he spent 20*l.* every journey, and got 20*l.* clear every journey; he got 400*l.* in those times. After the war was over, he married Mary, daughter of Michael Whiteley, that he had by Sybil, that was afterwards married to my uncle Francis. Joseph Whiteley, her brother, a lieutenant in the Parliament army, died of his wounds at Selby. He was brother to Mary, wife to my brother Thomas. Her portion was as good as 610*l.*, and my uncle Francis told me, a little before his death, that he being related to my brother Thomas on both sides, they thought all was their's. "Cousin," said he, "I have been as "good to your brother and his children as 400*l.*, and when I am

[27] Buried, 1689, "Joseph Priestley, of Goodgreaves, above Sowerby, buried Dec. 26, aged 72."—*Heywood's Register*, p. 76.

"dead all will be worth nothing;" so that I can demonstrate by his wife, her mother, and my uncle Francis, he had far above 1000*l.* He had seven sons, viz., Joseph, Benjamin, Jeremiah, Ely, Jonathan, John, and Thomas; would think a very promising offspring. I need not say much of his posterity, being so well known to them that are alive. He gave to Joseph, his eldest son, all his land at Westercroft, which cost him 680*l.*; this son, by ill management, foolishly and prodigally wasted and consumed all. It's true his wife enjoys part of it, worth 10*l.* a year, but there is more money owing, if his debts were paid, than the land will give. He went into Ireland, and was slain near King William, at the battle of the Boyne.

Benjamin was put apprentice to one Boys, of Leeds; his master set him in Blackwell Hall; he continued there some time after he had served his time, till he had got cloth of his master's worth 300*l.*, paying bills for his master; his master broke, he having accepted more bills than he had effects to answer; went beyond sea, and died in Maryland. Jeremiah, the next son, was brought up at Cambridge; cost his father 300*l.*; presently after, he got a fellowship, and died at Cambridge.[28] Ely, I hope a well-disposed youth, died of a running ague at his father's house in Holdsworth. Jonathan went with his brother Joseph with the King, and, though he was alive after the battle, hath not been heard on for many years. Johnny, the next, was put an apprentice to a merchant in London; I hope a good man; is married and hath several daughters, but no son living as yet; he has been a dutiful son to his parents; had the least part of his father's estate, and did the best everyway. Thomas, the youngest, was very hopeful, and a great help to his father in his old age. His father left him his whole estate, 40*l.* a year, and made him sole executor. This Thomas, after his father's death, married Elizabeth Kitchingman[29]; he died shortly, intestate, his wife with

[28] "Jeremiah Priestly, 3d son of Thomas Priestly, gentleman, was born at Holdsworth de Ovenden, in the County of York; educated for six years in the public school of Halifax, till at the age of 17 he was admitted a pensioner at this college (Sidney Sussex) on the 16th April, 1670. B.A. 15 Jan., 1673; M.A. and Hart Fellow, Jan., 1678."—*Ex inform. Rev. Dr. Phelps, Master Sid. Coll. Camb.*

[29] Thomas Priestley, of Holdworth, 7th son of Thomas Priestley (only John left), dyed at one a clock, Sept. 17, bur. at Halifax, Sept. 19, 1695, an hopefull

child, which was born after his death, and died presently.[30] Having no issue, the whole estate descended upon two daughters, the children of Joseph, the eldest son, quite contrary to the father's intention. So that branch of the family is extinct, as to any male issue, and the land in Holdsworth that came by my mother, and that my brother bestowed so much pains and care about, is likely to be alienated both from the name and the family.

I told my brother Thomas, once upon an occasion, he had a good portion and inherited his mother's land; he said he was not beholding to his mother for it, she could not deprive him of it; but God has deprived both him and his of it. Let children beware of being ungrateful to their parents. He was a man so devoted to his own interest, he mattered no relation that stood in the way of it; would have his own will, if it was possible, whatever it cost him. My uncle Francis told him, a little before his death, what an unconscionable man he was; "Pray," says he, "take your brother's advice;" but it was far from him to think he stood in need of any advice from me. I could write more concerning him than is convenient for me. I lived apprentice six years in his family, according to agreement, and five years a tabler in his house at Holdsworth. He was interred at Halifax, Wednesday after Shrovetide, anno 1692. I went to visit him in his sickness; the last time I went to see him, a little before his death, there was nobody in the room but he and I; he called me unto him and took fast hold of my hand, "Brother," says he, "If there be any difference betwixt you and me, let us now forgive one another," which, God knows, I was full willing to do, and did accordingly declare myself to him; he seemed much affected with what I spoke to him, and held my hand fast in his a considerable time. He and his wife had sued out a fine of the land in Holdsworth to give it to his younger son, because he had

young man of 30 y. of age, left a young wife with child."—*Heywood's Register*. p. 81.

[30] 3d Oct., 1694. Indenture between Thomas Priestley, of Holdworth, in the parish of Halifax, co. York, gent., of the one part, and Wm. Kitchingman, of Halifax, merchant, and George Kitchingman, of Ovenden, in the said parish of Halifax, dyer, of the other part. Recites that a marriage was intended to be had between the said Thomas Priestley and Elizabeth Kitchingman, daughter of the said Wm. K. Her fortune 400*l*.—*Orig. deed.*

Married, Tho. Priestley and Elizabeth Kitchingman, Oct. 28. 1694.—*Turner's Northowram Register*, page 48.

left his eldest that which was equivalent at Westercroft, and yet makes his Will and leaves it all to Thomas and his heirs for ever, though his son Thomas was not then married; never makes mention at all. for want of heirs of Thomas, to John and his heirs, who was his best child and had divers children; and now the estate goes from his only son now living (as I have hinted before) to two daughters of his eldest son, which son had in his lifetime been the ruin of the whole family, in a manner, by his extravagant proceedings. My brother projected all the ways he could to keep his land in Holdsworth from his eldest son or his posterity, yet see how the providence of God overrules the purposes and contrivances of men. After Thomas, my father had a daughter that was either still-born or died in a short time after she came into the world.

Samuel was the next son. I can well remember him after he was grown up to 19 or 20 years of age. He was placed with Robert Hall, in Booth Town. Soon after the Civil Wars began betwixt the King and Parliament, insomuch as all trade and business was interrupted and laid aside, Lord Fairfax and Sir Thomas his son, came to Leeds and those parts to list soldiers; my brother Sam went amongst the rest, but he came over to Goodgreave to take his leave of my mother, uncles, and friends. What entreaty and persuasions there was to keep him at home, but could not prevail. My mother went along with him a quarter of a mile, and I with her, as children use to do; she besought him with tears not to go; I remember his words, "Mother," saith he, "Pray be content; if I stay at home I can follow no "employment, but be forced to hide myself in one hole or another, "which I cannot endure; I had rather venture my life in the "field, and, if I die, it is in a good cause;" so most honest men thought in those times, when hundreds of Protestants were daily murdered in Ireland, and fearing the same tragedy would be acted in England; so he went, and was with my Lord Fairfax, about Selby and Tadcaster, till the king's army had overrun Yorkshire, all but Hull.

We being banished into Lancashire, my brother Sam went to keep Heptonstal (to prevent the king's army at Halifax from entering Lancashire), under the command of Colonel Bradshaw, a very wise, valiant, religious commander. I know a man alive at this day say, since I began to write this, he hath heard many

a sweet prayer from his mouth, in the field amongst the soldiers. Captain Helewel and Captain Taylor, of Brighouse, commanded under him. The occasion of my brother Samuel's death was an act of compassion to the enemy. The king's army from Halifax came against the town, and was beaten back, and many slain, and 300 taken prisoners. Brother Sam, in the pursuit, saw a wounded man in the water, ready to be drowned; being an object of pity, he went into the water in his boots and drew him out to dry land; he being on guard, or some necessary service, had his wet boots on all night, got cold, came home, and fell, I think, into a fever, and died in about three weeks after. Divers soldiers came from Heptonstal to visit him, some of them unknown to us. I shall not forget how my mother, perceiving his end approaching, kneeled down, and all in the house with her, and most affectionately prayed for him. Immediately after prayer, he departed this life, in the flower of his age, about 22. He was attended to his grave by many friends, then in exile, with the neighbours about us. His body was interred in the church-yard at Rochdale. He was a very portly, desirable young man; curled black hair, and comely. His death was a great affliction to my good mother. He died, I think, in 1642, about one year before my father; so one trouble after another fell upon my poor mother like the waves of the sea.

I had two brothers more, Timothy and Benjamin, that was hid in the grave before the wars began, that died about 12 or 14 years of age, towardly, and very ingenious, as many children are that die in their minority. I can remember the death of Benjamin, and that is all.

Mary, my sister, was three and a half years elder than myself. A little before my mother's death she married Matthew Nicholson, of Graystones, in Warley, against my mother's mind; but she gave an unwilling consent to it at last, and made shift to make her up a portion of 100*l*. Her husband died young; left her with five or six young children; all that are alive are Joseph and Benjamin, of Warley, and Elizabeth, wife of Josiah Stansfield, of Breck, in Sowerby. My sister died with her elder son Joseph; she was just exactly of my brother Thomas's temper as could be; she would scrape together all she could, and part with nothing but against her will. She was buried at Luddenden.

My mother, as I have said, out-lived my father 16 or 17

years, and lived to see six of her children laid in the grave. She died with her daughter Mary (lately married to Matthew Nicholson, of Warley), in or about the year 1659 or 1660; that very year my wife was great with Jonathan my eldest son. She was something inclined to a dropsycal distemper and a swelling in her lower parts, a little before her death, but did stir about in the house till a few days before her death, for indeed nature was spent; she was very old; how old I cannot give account. My brother Thomas, hearing she was likely to die, told me I must take care of her funeral, and that she had put 20*l.* in my hand for that; and indeed, when I begun the world, about four years before, she gave me 20*l.*, but not upon that account that I know of; but the last time I went to see her, after she had desired me to pray with her, she called me to her, and told me she had given what she had to make up my sister's portion, "And," said she, "I know not what my son Thomas will do, there is no rent due "to me yet;" but was pleased to say I had been a good child to her, though she had done least for me, and said she chiefly relied upon me to take care of her funeral, which I promised her I would. I think I could have given her the one half of what I had if she had stood in need of it.

In a short time it pleased God to take her to Himself, in a good old age, like a shock of corn in its season, fully ripe. When my mother was dead, I went over to my brother Thomas and told him I was freely willing to be at one half of the charge of my mother's funeral; her death having made some impression on him at that time, he yielded to it, his rent to my mother being near hand due. This I did as willingly as anything in my life, though that 20*l.* was all I had from my parents besides my education, which I have cause to praise God for whilst I have my being. This I say, not out of any discontent with my portion, for I being the youngest, and considering my mother's circumstances, she could not well do otherways than she did.

I do believe few Christians attain to that height of knowledge, and to such a measure of grace in this world as my mother. The wisdom of God foresaw that she had both more to do and suffer than some other good women; so His goodness gave her more faith and more patience. Let it be considered what sorrow the breeding and bearing ten children was; and to see six of them laid in the dust; which was more grief and sorrow to her,

and went worse with her, as she would say, than bringing them into the world. The streights my father was put to must needs trouble her; she could not see him suffer want of anything, but yielded to the selling of Goodgreave, his father's inheritance, and part of her own, but she patiently, by Divine help, went through all; was clothed with humility, and adorned with the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit. She much resembled Mr. Booth both in nature and grace, being of one blood, having the same education, and brought up with my grandfather Booth. She was of something a timorous temper, though not to that degree that Mr. Booth was. If she had done or said anything amiss, she would take on and lament it grievously, both to God and men, and her Christian friends. If there may be excess in Christian sorrow, she might exceed, for anything I know, to a fault sometimes, about that which some persons would account a very small matter, for she was never guilty of any gross miscarriage in all her life.

I can remember, when I was young, being far from the chapel, and by bad weather being forced to keep the house with my mother, she would read over the 38th Psalm, with tears in her eyes; and the Psalms she would direct my sister and me to get off book was three Psalms, viz., 15st, 38th, and 143rd; and chapters, John 17th, and Romans 8th. We had much rather have gone to the chapel than been in the house on a Lord's Day, we were kept so close to our books.

Prayers and tears were her daily exercise; if I say her daily food, I believe I speak not amiss. She found, I believe, such relief, peace, and comfort therein, that her heart was set upon it, not only morning and evening, but at other times, when all was quiet, and her family affairs would permit. I am confident Monica herself did not send up more prayers to heaven, and pour out more tears for her son, than my good mother did for her children. I can say more from my own knowledge than it may be is convenient to relate. And she was diligent and laborious in her particular employment in the family; few servants will take the pains now that she did in hay harvest; I have wondered how she could endure to take the pains both within and without doors.

My Aunt Sybil would tell her she was too indulgent to her children; "Well," she would say, "My children do as well as

the children of others that are more severe used." Indeed, she had a great deal of comfort in my brother John; he thought nothing too dear for her; he was frequently sending her one good thing or other from London; and my brother Joseph too, give him his due, devoted himself to please his mother, and was exceeding kind to us who were the younger children, all the time my mother staid at Goodgreave, till he was married. He had a competent measure of knowledge, and I have heard him well exercised in religious duties. I think the unkind, crabbed behaviour of his wife was one occasion that made him not love his own house so well as he did in my mother's time, who with her and my uncles had lived in so much amity for many years.

What a labyrinth of sorrow and trouble is the life of man; of good men as well as of others, for all things come alike to all; but, notwithstanding, there is a vast difference. What a succession of trouble and affliction attended the life of David, but God was with him, and was a refuge to him in time of trouble. Saul also was a man in great distress (1 Samuel, 28). One can scarce read the story without some sentiments of commiseration and pity of his lamentable case; but see the difference: he could not comfort and encourage himself in the Lord his God. If he enquired of God, He answered him not. He had forsaken God, and God had rejected and forsaken him. He fell all along on the ground, and sunk down in despair, without any relief from heaven and earth. But how often have I heard some of these servants of God, before mentioned, acknowledge that it was good for them that they had been afflicted. Tribulation worketh patience; patience, experience; experience, hope. When a good man is able to make a true judgment of himself, and the wise dealing of God with him, he will know that though no affliction for the present is joyous but grievous, that afterwards it bringeth forth the quiet and peaceable fruits of righteousness to those that are exercised therein.

What a great blessing it is to children when parents are both truly godly and religious. As it was the sin of the old world, I think it is that of the present age, that professing Christians, to compass an estate, for the love of the world, do so ordinarily marry their children into profane, irreligious families. I do observe that it is the undoing of posterity, the very bane of religion, and I am persuaded is one great reason of the visible

declining and decay of the power of godliness among us of this generation. How such parents will answer it I know not, that consent to such marriages; those that think it no privilege to be born of such parents in covenant with God, what do they more than profane Esau, that despised his birthright and sold it. I cannot but pity the miserable and lamentable case of those children that are brought into the world by ignorant, profane, irreligious parents, that have neither knowledge nor will to instruct their children in the saving knowledge of God and Jesus Christ; of their lost condition by nature; or how to do anything to the glory of God, or the recovery and salvation of their own immortal souls; but rather teach them to sin with more boldness, or less remorse, or check of conscience; by their wicked examples, may it be, do their endeavour to beget in them a prejudice against all serious godliness.

I was the youngest of ten children, born upon St. Thomas's day, in the year 1633. I was put apprentice to my brother Thomas Priestley, at Houldsworth, by my father and uncle Jonathan, when I was but 14 years of age, and served him, according to their agreement, till I was above twenty.

[Jonathan Priestley, who writ the preceding memoirs of the Priestleys, was born in the year 1633, and died in 1705, aged 72[31]].

[31] Dickenson gives the following notice of him :—"Mr. Jonathan Priestley, of Westercroft, died July 27 [1705], aged 71 years and 7 months, a solid Christian of considerable piety and usefulness." (*Turner's Northowram Register*, page 287). He is mentioned, also, occasionally in Oliver Heywood's Diaries, &c.

PART II

Some brief Memoirs of the Family of the Priestleys, written in 1779 by Nathaniel Priestley, of Northowram, the son of John Priestley, who was the son of Jonathan Priestley, of Winteredge, who writ the preceding Memoirs.

Nathaniel Priestley was born November 17th, O.S., anno 1699. Died 5th April, 1781.

This Mr. Jonathan Priestley,[1] my grandfather, in his said memoirs, gives a very good account of the family, so far as it goes. He treats of his ancestors, his cotemporaries, his brothers and sisters, but saith little of himself, and nothing of his children, though they must be married and have children when he writ those memoirs.

What I admire and esteem, there is a spirit of virtue and piety runs through the whole performance.

The old generation of the Priestleys being gone off the stage of this life, all my grandfather's children and all his grandchildren, except myself, are laid in the grave. I being the

[1] This Jonathan was a friend and correspondent of Ralph Thoresby, F.R.S., as appears by four letters dated Winteredge:—Jany. 12, 1707; Oct. 12. 1715; Jany. 30. 1716; April 16. 1716.—*Note in MS.*

Thoresby says:—"My friend Mr. Jonathan Priestley's MS. additions to Mr. Turner's 'History of Providences,' presented us with a later instance, and a native of England, Jeremiah Street (a Wiltshire man born), who, May 25th. 1703, was showed publicly at Halifax, for his extraordinary stature, 'I could,' saith he (who is himself a proper person), 'stand under his arm-hole, and above an inch to spare, and with my hand could just reach the top of his head.' He was 7 feet 5 inches high, but corpulent and unhealthy, and falling sick at Bradford, was interred there 13th June."—*Ducatus Leod.*, p. 611.

From the MS. collection of my old friend Mr. Jonathan Priestley, of Winteredge, near Halifax, I have notice of one James Sagar, who married at fourscore, and yet lived to lead his grand-child to church."—*Id.*, p. 621.

oldest person of the name now living, I am desired by a relation to carry on the genealogy farther, which I shall endeavour to do in a summary way.

My grandfather, Jonathan Priestley, married Phæbe, daughter of Richard Hoyle, of Howkans, in Northowram. I have a manuscript of his writing, wherein he gives her an extraordinary character for piety, and prudence in the management of his affairs, and in the education of her children. He had by her three sons and two daughters, beside three that died in infancy. His sons were Jonathan, Nathaniel, and John; the daughters were Lydia and Abigail; and though he had but little when he begun the world, yet by good management, and with an excellent character, as I have heard from many, he gave to each of his sons a farm; to Jonathan, his oldest son, he left Winteredge. He was a sober and religious man, married a Lancashire woman, whom I did not know. She had no child, and died long before him. He devised his estate of about 70*l.* per annum to Jonathan, his brother Nathaniel's eldest son. This Nathaniel was educated for the ministry. He and Mr. Ely Dawson preached at Halifax and Bradford, alternately, many years. He was a man of good natural parts and capacity, and of great learning, and was much admired and esteemed as a preacher.[33] His father left him his estate at Westercroft. He married Jane, the widow of a gentleman whose name was Fourness. I believe her jointure out of his estate might be about 100*l.* per annum, with the mansion house at Ovenden, which she enjoyed during her life, and survived my uncle many years. She had two sons by Mr. Fourness; one was a captain, the other a lieutenant in the army, in Queen Anne's wars. She had also by Mr. Nathaniel Priestley, 3 sons and 3 daughters; the sons were Jonathan, Thomas, and

[33] "Mr. Nathaniel Priestley, of Ovenden, died Sept. 5. bur. Sept. 9, in Halifax church, a worthy, eminent minister, a great loss, especially to the congregations at Halifax and Bradford."—*Turner's Northowram Register*, p. 802.

In Ralph Thoresby's Museum of Curiosities is mentioned, amongst many others, "a large incrustated ball of hair found in the stomach of an ox at Halifax, Don. Revd. Nathaniel Priestley."—*Ducatus Leod.*, page 133.

In a list of Thoresby's "MSS. in Octavos," is the following: "Mr. Smith, of Eland's, letter about non-conformity, and Mr. Sharp's answer thereunto; both are the originals, and that of Mr. Smith (author of the Patriarchal Sabbath), was given me by Mr. Jon. Priestley, and Mr. Sharp (author of Divine Comforts), by the Revd. Nathaniel Priestley."—*Ducatus Leod.*, page 542.

Nathaniel. His daughters were Elizabeth, Dorothy, and Sarah, who were all of them agreeable persons. Jonathan was a sober, virtuous man; he inherited both his uncle and father's estate, and improved it. He married to his first wife a daughter of Mr. Robert Milnes, of Wakefield, merchant. She had a son that died an infant, and she soon after died.[34] He married to his second wife, Martha Reesly, from Leeds; she had only one son, who is now living at or near Leeds, and enjoys the estate, about 200*l.* per annum. He married Mary Visser, a Dutch lady, by whom he hath a son and daughter, Henry and Sarah, nearly upgrown. This gentleman loves his bottle well.

My uncle Nathaniel's next sons were Thomas and Nathaniel. There were both extravagant, imprudent men; went into the army; Thomas died there unmarried[35]; the other, I believe, married one as good as himself; his father left him 20*l.* per annum during his life, but no farther provision for his heirs after his death. He left two children, a son and daughter, now living.

His brother Jonathan, though he had a son of his own, left those children 200*l.* a piece, in his Will, which I mention to the credit of his generosity and charity. I was appointed trustee for them, and paid the money.

My uncle Nathaniel's oldest daughter was Elizabeth; she married Mr. John Whitaker, a minister at Plat, near Manchester. I was intimate with him; he was a worthy gentleman, and very agreeable in conversation. She had a son and a daughter, Richard and Hannah; Richard, a friendly and good-natured man; he married Ann, the widow of John Hodgson, as hereafter mentioned; she had one daughter by him, namely, Hannah; she is now living with her father at Bradford. Mr. Whitaker's daughter, of Plat, married one Mr. Siddal, near Manchester, who is a man of character, but what children he hath, I know not.

My uncle Nathaniel's next daughter was Dorothy; she married Mr. Abraham Rhodes, near Bradford; they had two sons; Richard, the oldest, died a bachelor; but with his paternal

[34] "Mrs. Hannah Priestley, of Winteredge, died at her father's, Mr. Milnes of Wakefield, Mar. 26, bur. at New chappell there, Mar. 28, 1728."—*Turner's Northowram Register*, p. 800.

[35] "Thomas, son of Mr. Priestley, of Ovenden, died at Inverness, in Scotland, May 13 [1722]; had listed himself some time ago to be a soldier, leaving his master and his parents."—*Turner's Northowram Register*, p. 285.

estate, and by trade, he acquired a good fortune, which he left to his brother and sisters and their children. John, his brother, continued in the trade of a merchant with success and reputation, but he died young. He married Faith, a daughter of Mr. Rawden, near York, who is a comely, agreeable person, and of great discretion; she hath a son and two daughters, Dorothy, and Sarah; they are both very well accomplished young ladies. John, his son, is a sober and sensible young man; I think he is in partnership with his cousin Hardcastle, who was in company with his father, when living, in the mercantile way.

Mr. Abraham Rhodes, besides his two sons, had three daughters, Jane, Dorothy, and Sarah. Jane married Mr. Hardcastle, near Leeds, and had both sons and daughters. She is dead; and I had but little acquaintance with that family; only I knew Mr. John Hardcastle, of Halifax, and a daughter, the wife of Mr. Benson, a linen draper in Halifax. Dorothy, Mr. Rhodes' second daughter, married Mr. Robert Swaine, a manufacturer at Bradford, who died young, and left her a widow, and four children. She married a second husband, Japhet Lupton, by whom she hath four children in infancy; I know two sons, by her first husband, that are in trade, and one daughter unmarried.

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Mr. Abraham Rhodes had another daughter Sarah, who married one Mr. Prince, of Cambridge, who, I believe, is living, but what posterity she hath I know not.

My uncle Nathaniel's youngest daughter was Sarah; she was about my age; she married Mr. Robert Milnes, a merchant at Wakefield; he died soon, and left her a widow with one daughter. She had a good fortune, and married Mr. James Lees, of Manchester, who died long ago. She continued a widow at Manchester. I have seen a daughter of her's, but whether she have any more I know not.

I shall now speak of my grandfather's youngest son, viz., my father, John. His father left him Whitewindows, but he had not those worldly advantages, in some respects, that his older brothers had; yet, by his industry and prudent management, he maintained a numerous family in plenty, and left a competent fortune to those that survived him. He died young, in 1720, aged 52. My father was a man of great integrity, and

of a friendly and charitable disposition.[36] I was his son, and the only son that survived him. He married Mary, the daughter of Mr. Abraham Swift, of Halifax; she was a woman of great piety and goodness in all respects, which was well-known to me by experience, and to everyone that knew and conversed with her. She had ten children, but only four survived my father. The death of so many of her children was a great affliction to her and my father. Three daughters died of a pleurisy in one month, aged from about ten to fifteen years. I remember, upon that occasion, Mr. Dickinson, our minister, came to see us; she desired him to make a discourse[37] from Psalm 25, 17: *The troubles of my heart are enlarged: Oh! bring Thou me out of my distresses.* She survived my father about fourteen years, and died November 5th, 1734, aged about 65.[38] Phæbe, my eldest sister, died before her; she married Mr. Huthwait, dissenting minister at Idle, and died without issue. My next sister, Elizabeth, married Mr. James Ingham, a mercer in Halifax, who died long ago; she lived to old age; died in January, 1777, aged 75 years. She was a good woman, but met with many troubles in life. She was particularly unhappy in her two daughters, which were all she had. Mary hath been insane about ten years; Sarah, the younger, married one Joseph Wilkinson, who failed in the world, and died insolvent. This Sarah died the 10th June last, 1779, at London. Sarah, my youngest sister, married Mr. John Daniel, of Leeds; she died in September, 1775, aged about 63 years. Several children survived her; Mary married Mr. John

[36] Dickenson notices his death thus:—1720, "Mr. John Priestley, of Westercroft, my very dear friend, was seiz'd with some illness, on Fryday, Sept. 9, was better next morning, went to Halifax, was at Northourum chapel on Lord's Day, went to Rochdale on Monday, was very ill that evening, return'd home on Tuesday, died on Friday about 11 a clock at night."—*Turner's Northowram Register*, p. 281.

[37] The Sermon was printed, and the title runs—"A funeral Sermon preached at Northourum, March ye 4th, occasion'd by the death of three daughters of John Priestley, of Westercroft, viz., Judith, who died Jan. ye 21st, in the 15th year of her age; Mary, who died Feb. ye 4th, in the 10th year of age; and, Hannah, who died Feb. ye 22nd, in the 13th year of her age. A.D. 1710."

[38] Another Sermon also was printed, and the title is—"Exemption from condemnation, or the privilege and happiness of all true believers in and by Christ Jesus, considered and improved in a Funeral Sermon on Rom. 8-1, preached in Northourum, November 17, occasioned by the death of Mrs. Mary Priestley, widow, who departed this life November the 5th, 1734, aged 65, by Thomas Dickenson."—*Turner's Northowram or Coley Register*, 1881, Introduction.

Bowling, a hatter in Leeds; they have one child, an infant; John is married and hath three children in infancy; Elizabeth is unmarried. All my sisters were pious and religious persons.

I have given some account of my grandfather's three sons; I shall now say something of his daughters, which were two, Lydia and Abigail. Lydia died unmarried.[39] Abigail married Mr. Thomas Hodgson, of Bradford, maltster; I did not know her; she had two children, Phæbe and John; Phæbe married Joshua Stead, but whether any of his posterity be living I know not. John Hodgson was my cotemporary, but I think some years older; he was a man of good understanding and prudence in the management of his affairs. He married Ann, the daughter of Mr. Leach, near Bingley, who died not long ago at London, upon a visit to her children there. I know not what number of children Mr. Hodgson had, but three are living. William is married, and hath six children in infancy; he is a sensible man, and a merchant of good reputation in the city of London, where he was apprentice; I know not the name of the lady he married. John Hodgson his two daughters are Abigail and Alice; both of them very amiable and prudent persons. Abigail married Mr. Christopher Rawden, a merchant of reputation in Halifax many years, who is, I suppose, retired from business, and removed with his family to York, his native country, where he hath a good estate, and hath left his oldest son, Christopher, to carry on their extensive trade at Halifax, and I am told is very capable of it. They have a daughter, married at London, and three more in their minority. Alice, Mr. Hodgson's younger daughter, married Mr. William Blake, who is an eminent trader in the city of London, with a very good character. I am told they have five children in infancy.

Now I have related what I know, or have been informed, concerning the posterity of my grandfather, Mr. Jonathan Priestley, of Winteredge, excepting a few words of my own family hereafter. I shall now give some particulars of a collateral branch of the Priestley family.

[39] Decr. 17th. 1681, Lydia Priestley, daughter of Jonathan Priestley, of Winteredge, was returning home on horseback from Joseph Priestley, of Norland (her cousin's), in crossing the brook at Godley Bridge (Northowram), there being a flood at the time, her feet caught the wood bridge, and she was thrown into the water and taken out dead; she was 20 years of age.—*Heywood Diary.*

Mr. Jonathan Priestley tells you, in the preceding memoirs, that he had an older brother, namely, Joseph; he married Heister, the daughter of Mr. John Briggs, of Ovenden, by whom he had two sons, John and Joseph, and some other children. I knew not any of them but Joseph, of Whitewindows; he lived to old age, being born in 1650, and died in 1733, above 83 years old.[40] He married Mary, the daughter of William Morrell, of Beckfoot, near Bingley, and had several children[41]; but I had little knowledge of any of them but John and Timothy. Timothy died without issue. I was very intimate with John; he had a fine comely head of grey hair, almost white. He was a considerable maker of white kerseys about 60 years; he was near 86½ years old when he died, being born in 1678, and died in 1765. I do not remember that I ever heard of any of the family that attained to his age. He was a sober, religious, honest man, and got a very good fortune by his trade, with a good character. He married Mary, daughter of Mr. Israel Wilde, of Ball Green, in Sowerby, by whom he had only one son, John, from whom I had the above account. He was born in February, 1717-18, and succeeded his father in trade, and with great success; he is a man of sobriety and integrity. He married Susannah, daughter of Mr. Benjamin Holroyde, of Wood Lane Hall, in Sowerby, by whom he hath two sons, Joseph and John. I observed before, that Whitewindows was my paternal estate; this family had occupied it, as tenants, three generations; the building was ordinary, therefore Mr. Priestley wanted a better house, and as the situation was very good, he desired I would sell him the estate, which I did, and he

[40] Joseph was born June 23, 1650, and died 24 Jan., 1733-4. His Will is dated 20 Feb., 1732; and proved by his son, John Priestley, in the Exchequer Court of York, May 1st, 1734. Joseph Priestley, in his Will, makes mention of four children, John, Timothy, Mary, who married Christopher Brook, of Clifton, and Hannah, who married — Whitaker (2nd husband). Her first husband was — Starkey, Esq., by whom she had William, John, and Ellen.

[41] One of them, Mary, married Mr. Christopher Brook. On a gravestone in the Churchyard at Hartshead is the following:

Christopher Brook, of Clifton, died 20 March, 1750, aged 73. Mary, his wife (the daughter of Joseph Priestley, of White Windows), died 9th March, 1756, aged 65. John, their son, died Aug. 20th, 1782, aged 62. Mary, their daughter, died Decr. 25th, 1789, aged 67. Christopher, their son, died Apl. 17th, 1810, aged 83.—*Note in MS.*

hath erected a most elegant house in the years 1767 and 1768, not many better (if any) in the parish of Halifax.

Mr. John Priestley, of Whitewindows, hath two sons, as aforesaid, Joseph and John, who are well accomplished young gentlemen, and both married into very opulent families. Joseph was born 17 August, 1750, and married November 5th, 1770, to Lydia, daughter and only child of Mr. John Lea, of Haughend, by whom he hath five daughters, 1st Harriet, 2nd Caroline, 3rd Mary Susannah, 4th Delia, 5th Lucy, in their infancy. John, born October 10th, 1754, and married September 19th, 1776, to Elizabeth, second daughter of William Walker, Esq., of Crownest, in Hipperholm. Both Mr. Walker and Mr. Lea have very great estates, both real and personal. John has one son, born 8th October, 1779, named William.

There is another collateral branch of the Priestleys descended from the female line, and though most of them have changed their names by marrying into other families, yet I shall briefly mention them, as they are the offspring of a Priestley. Moreover, many of them are known to me, and of my acquaintance.

My grandfather tells us in his memoirs that he had a sister whose name was Mary. She married Matthew Nicholson, of Warley; had several sons, and one daughter, Elizabeth, who married Mr. Josiah Stansfield,[42] of Breck, in Sowerby. So far he goes in his memoirs, but no farther, as to his descendants. That Elizabeth I have seen; she had one son and three daughters; I knew them all very well, but they are all dead long ago. John, her only son, lived to old age; married, but had no issue. He was a remarkable character; was a considerable trader, and very successful, and was a man of great knowledge and good elocution. He was charitable, and had many virtues, but alas! when about 70, he became insane in mind, and by his mad conduct, ruined his estate. At last, to prevent insolvency, his relations obliged him to give up his estate and effects to them, by which means they paid all his debts, and contrived in the sale of his estate to reserve an annuity of about 80*l.* per annum for his support during his life; so that, for two years before his death, he became quiet and contented with what had been done, and died in peace.

[42] Arms of Stansfield. Sable. three Goats trippant argent; and were so painted on the chapel window at Heptonstall, with a date, in old numerals, 1508.—*Note in MS.*

Elizabeth's three daughters were Lydia, Sarah, and Elizabeth; were all worthy good Christians. Lydia married one Mr. Milne, a Lancashire gentleman of estate and good understanding. She had seven children; four settled in Lancashire; are all dead except a daughter, but I know not any of their posperity. Three of her children married near Halifax, and are all living, and in good circumstances; Thomas, Mary, and Sarah.

Thomas Milne is a very industrious man, and hath been successful in trade. He hath had two wives; three children by his first wife, and twelve children by his second. I am told he has at this time ten or eleven of them living, all by his second wife, and fourteen grandchildren. Mrs. Milne, good woman, hath honestly complied with the apostle's injunction (1st Timothy, 5, 14): *I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house.*

Lydia's next daughter was Mary. She is a comely, agreeable person, and a good æconomist. She married Mr. John Lea, of Haughend, who hath got a very good fortune in trade, with the character of an honest man. She hath only one daughter, married to Mr. Jo. Priestley, as above said. Sarah, her sister, is a good religious woman; she married Mr. Abraham Whitehead, who died long ago. She had a son and daughter, both married, John and Elizabeth. John died in September last, 1779. Elizabeth Stansfield's next daughter was Sarah, she married Mr. Martin Hotham, of York; two of her children are living, Josiah and Hannah; I think they are about 70 years old. Hannah was never married; Josiah hath a son and a daughter about 26 years old; they are very rich, but of a worthy good character. Elizabeth Stansfield's youngest daughter was Elizabeth; she married Mr. Thomas Holden, a mercer in Halifax; she had two children, Richard and Hannah, both dead. I married Hannah; by her I had four children, one died in infancy; Elizabeth, my oldest daughter, died unmarried. My son John is yet a bachelor; my daughter Hannah married Mr. Robert Swaine, a very considerable manufacturer of worsted stuffs in Halifax; she hath been married some years, but as yet hath no child. I shall say no more at present concerning my own children, but only this, they are very good, and do all in their power to promote my happiness. My dear wife was an excellent woman, but it pleased God to take her away from me by death, in the

year 1752, and the 44th year of her age. She had a brother, Richard Holden, as above said. He was in trade some years, but retired from business before his death. He died in the year 1766, aged about 56, without issue, having never married. He made no Will, therefore my son John came into the possession of his estate of about 150*l* per annum, as heir at law.

Thus I have given a summary account, to the best of my knowledge and remembrance, of the pedigree of our family in my time; most of the persons mentioned herein I have known and conversed with.

In this memorial there may be some omissions and a few mistakes, but I believe most of what I have related is true in fact; if there be some mistakes, they are not voluntary. I have treated of persons and things as they appeared to me. But I may say, as Barzillai said to King David (2 Samuel, 19, 35): *I am this day fourscore years old.* It cannot therefore be expected that I could enlarge or write with the propriety and accuracy of style as might be done by a younger person.

To conclude:—I take the liberty to exhort and beseech all my relations that may happen to see this narrative, that they *Fear God and keep His commandments;* and, *If riches increase, set not your hearts upon them* (Psalm 62, 10). Let us all be often thinking of the shortness and uncertainty of this mortal life. *What is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away* (James 4, 14).

Your fathers, where are they? and the prophets, do they live for ever? (Zachariah 1, 5). May we all be humble and thankful to God for the numberless mercies we receive; and by faith in Christ, and perseverance in a life of sincere piety and virtue till death, may we be prepared to enjoy that state of perfection and happiness in heaven which God hath promised to them that love Him.

November 28th, 1779.

Mr. Nathaniel Priestley died 5th April, 1781, aged 81 years, 4 months, 8 days. I am now the oldest of the Priestley family mentioned in the above memoirs. I pray God prepare me for a happy change.

JOHN PRIESTLEY.

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